IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please **AMEND** the specification as follows:

Page 7, line 6, change "designed" to --designated--.

Page 9, line 24, change "21" to --20--.

Page 10, line 21, change "logical volumes" to --magnetic disk units--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **CANCEL** claims 2 and 8 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter claimed therein.

For the convenience of the Examiner, all of the pending claims are reproduced below, whether or not the claims are amended herein.

Please **AMEND** the claims as follows:

1. (ONCE AMENDED) A RAID apparatus comprising:

a plurality of physical disk units [for forming same logical volumes] storing a plurality of copies of each of logical volumes; and

a disk controller [for] accessing any of the physical disk [unit] units which [forms] stores a designated logical volume to thereby access said designated logical volume,

said disk controller including:

a memory [for] storing [a] the number of operations[,] requested to each physical disk unit, for each physical disk unit, and

control means for accessing one of said plurality of physical disk units which [form] stores the [designed] designated logical volume, in accordance with said number of operations,

wherein said control means compares numbers of operations corresponding to a plurality of physical disk units which store said designated logical volumes with each other, and selects the physical disk unit which has a minimum number of operations.

3. (ONCE AMENDED) The RAID apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control means includes:

a channel adapter circuit [for] performing interface control with a high-rank apparatus;

a device adapter circuit [for] accessing said physical disk units in accordance with a requested operation; and

a resource manager circuit [for] determining [a] one of the plurality of physical disk [unit] units to be accessed in accordance with said number of operations in said memory in response to a transfer request from said channel adapter circuit, and requesting said device adapter circuit to perform an operation [for] accessing said determined physical disk unit.

4. (NOT AMENDED) The RAID apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said resource manager circuit increments a number of operations of said determined physical disk unit in accordance with a request on said operation and decrements a number of operations of a

physical disk unit whose operation has been completed, in accordance with an end of said operation of said device adapter circuit.

5. (ONCE AMENDED) The RAID apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said memory stores status information indicating statuses of said physical disk units; and

said resource manager circuit refers to said status information to determine whether those physical disk units which [form] store said designated logical volume are normal and [selecting] selects a normal physical disk unit.

6. (ONCE AMENDED) The RAID apparatus according to claim 3, wherein for each logical volume, said memory stores information of a plurality of physical disk units which [hold] store said logical volume; and

said resource manager circuit refers to said memory to select a physical disk unit on which said logical volume is allocated.

7. (ONCE AMENDED) An access control method for a RAID apparatus comprising a plurality of physical disk units [for forming same logical volumes] storing a plurality of copies of each of logical volumes, and a disk controller [for] accessing any physical disk unit which [forms] stores a designated logical volume to thereby access said designated logical volume, said method comprising [the steps of]:

determining a plurality of physical disk units which [form] store a [designed] designated logical volume; and

selecting one of said determined physical disk units in accordance with [a] the number of operations requested to said physical disk units,

wherein said selecting step comprises:

comparing said numbers of operations of a plurality of physical disk units which store said designated logical volumes with each other, and

accessing the physical disk unit which has a minimum number of operations.

9. (ONCE AMENDED) The access control method according to claim 7, wherein said determining step determines said plurality of physical disk units in response to a transfer request from a high-rank apparatus; and

said selecting step includes:

[a step of] requesting an operation for accessing said physical disk unit determined in accordance with said number of operations, and

[a step of] accessing said physical disk unit in accordance with said requested operation.

10. (ONCE AMENDED) The access control method according to claim 9, further comprising [the steps of]:

incrementing [a] the number of operations of said determined physical disk unit, stored in a memory, in accordance with a request on said operation; and

decrementing [a] the number of operations of a physical disk unit whose operation has been completed, in accordance with an end of said operation of said physical disk unit.

11. (ONCE AMENDED) The access control method according to claim 7, wherein said selecting step includes:

[a step of] referring to status information to determine indicative of statuses of said physical disk units, stored in a memory, to determine whether those physical disk units which form said [designated] identified logical volume are normal; and

[a step of] selecting a normal physical disk unit.

12. (ONCE AMENDED) The access control method according to claim 7, wherein said determining step [refers] includes referring to information of a plurality of physical disk units which [form] store said logical volume, stored in a memory, to determine physical disk units [forming] storing said logical volume.

Please ADD the following new claim:

13. (NEW) A RAID apparatus comprising:

physical disk units storing redundant logical volumes, a first of the redundant logical volumes being stored on one of the physical disk units, and a second of the redundant logical volumes being stored on another of the physical disk units; and

a disk controller counting numbers of operations respectively requested of each of the physical disk units and accessing one of the first and the second of the redundant logical volumes based on a minimum number of the numbers of operation respectively requested of each of the physical disk units.